

# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

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### **Missouri's Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax will be on November Ballot, Gov. Nixon Announces**

**Initiative protecting Missouri's natural resources and state parks has been overwhelming popular with voters for three decades**

On May 9, Gov. Jay Nixon announced that Missouri's Parks, Soils and Water sales tax, which is up for renewal this year, will appear on the November ballot.

"Missouri's farm families have long been innovators and leaders in protecting our soil, air and water. That's why we were the first state in the nation to pass a Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax more than 30 years ago," Gov. Nixon said. "Missourians have given this program their support for several decades, and I am confident that support will continue for many years to come."

"Soil and water stewardship is important to Missouri farmers, and we are fortunate to have a state program that helps farmers implement costly but needed conservation practices on their land. Missouri is the envy of other states with the improvements made possible by the one-tenth cent Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, both for soil and water conservation and for our state parks," said Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst. "We appreciate Gov. Nixon's support for renewal of this landmark program and encourage Missouri voters to renew it once again this November."

"Missouri corn farmers have a long history of investing in our soil and natural resources," said Morris Heitman, President of the Missouri Corn Growers Association. "The parks, soils and water effort extends an existing program that has proven itself valuable to agriculture and conservationists alike."



**Ralph Gaw, Soil and Water Districts Commission Vice-chair, Andy and Dana Kapp, landowners, Colleen Meredith, Soil and Water Conservation Program Director, Gary Vandiver, Soil and Water Districts Commission Chair, and Richard Fordyce, Director Missouri Department of Agriculture attended the announcement of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax renewal being on the November ballot.**

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“Missouri soybean farmers are firmly committed to ensuring the long term sustainability of our state’s natural resources,” said Missouri Soybean Association President Matt McCrate of Cape Girardeau. “The parks, soils and water sales tax has had a key role in upholding that commitment. We’ve benefited from 30 years of successful partnership, bringing Missourians together on the common goal of ensuring the wise use of our natural resources, and we are committed to continuing that partnership moving forward.”

Missouri’s Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax was created through a constitutional amendment specifically to support efforts to stop soil erosion and provide funding for the state park system. The tax was first approved by voters in 1984, and has since been reapproved by voters three times in 1988, 1996 and 2006.

Agriculture is Missouri’s number one industry. With nearly 100,000 family farms and 28 million acres of farmland, agriculture is a twelve billion dollar business in the Show-Me State, creating nearly 300,000 Missouri jobs.

Missouri’s Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax provides funding for the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program, which assists farmers and landowners with soil and water conservation by providing partial reimbursement for a number management practices.

Since the tax was last renewed in 2006, more than 61,000 conservation practices have been implemented through \$348 million in cost-share grant projects coordinated by Missouri’s local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. To date, more than 177 million tons of soil have been prevented from eroding into Missouri’s streams, rivers and lakes.

Missouri’s Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is also the primary source of funding for Missouri’s nationally acclaimed 88 state parks and historic sites.

The 2016 General Election will be held on Nov. 8, 2016.

Missourians who are not yet registered to vote can find registration information on the Missouri Secretary of State’s website at [sos.mo.gov](http://sos.mo.gov).

### **Gov. Nixon Appoints Glen Cope and Tim Martin to Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission**

Gov. Jay Nixon has appointed Glen P. Cope (R), of Aurora, and Timothy W. Martin (I), of Bernie, to the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission. The commission formulates policies and general programs for the saving of Missouri soil and water by the soil and water conservation districts.

Cope is a fourth-generation cattle rancher and grain farmer and is the chairman of the board of directors of the Missouri Beef Industry Council. A past president of Barry County Farm Bureau, he also served for three years as chairman of the Missouri Farm Bureau’s Beef Commodity Advisory

Committee. Cope received his degree in agriculture from Missouri State University. In 2015, Cope was recognized with a Governor’s Award for Agricultural Achievement, which honors outstanding farmers, growers and processors for their work with agricultural commodities and their communities. The governor has appointed him for a term ending Aug. 15, 2017.



**Glen Cope**

Martin is the president of Martin Rice Company, Martin Grain Company and Marco Inc. With his brothers, he farms and manages more than 7,000 acres of rice-growing and row crop land in southeast Missouri. In 2010, Martin Rice Company received the Governor’s Award for Agricultural Achievement.



**Tim Martin**

Martin is a member of the Elk Township Board in Stoddard County and the Little River Drainage District Board of Supervisors. The governor has appointed him for a term ending Aug. 15, 2018.

### **Soil and Water Districts Commission Holds April Meeting in Jefferson City**

The Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission held its April 13 meeting via teleconference. The commission heard updates about the status of fiscal 2016 cost-share funds. Districts had written 7,620 contracts with \$34,059,149 obligated for erosion control resource concerns for this year as of April 6, 2016. This is 76 percent of the \$44,854,954 allocated for cost-share funding. By this time last year, \$24 million had been obligated. Districts will continue to process contracts until June 17 for this fiscal year. “What this shows is we have tremendous demand,” said commissioner H. Ralph Gaw.

At the area meetings held March 28 through April 1 there were 101 districts represented by a board member or supervisor out of the 114 districts in the state. Total attendance was 349, which included 68 supervisors and 163 employees. “I was very impressed by the people at these meetings and the questions and statements they had for the commission and the program,” said commissioner Gaw.



Reports were given about research monitoring proposals. The commission decided to table a their decision until the they could get more information about the two requests.

The next commission meeting is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on June 8 at the Missouri Department of Conservation Regional Office on Gans Road in Columbia. An agenda for the meeting will be posted on the commission's webpage at [on.mo.gov/1RR1biP](http://on.mo.gov/1RR1biP).

### **My Farm My Story Videos Available Online from the Missouri Department of Agriculture**

The Missouri Department of Agriculture is producing a My Farm My Story series of videos featuring Missouri farmers. In Missouri agriculture, we've been challenged time and time again with the responsibility of opening the farm gate and letting consumers in. From that challenge, the My Farm, My Story video series was born. Nearly 60 Missouri farmers have welcomed a video team from the Missouri Department of Agriculture onto their farms to share the story of their livelihood. New videos are being added weekly to the My Farm My Story index page located at <http://bit.ly/1RKRUq0>.

### **Pembroke Hill High School Sweeps 2016 Missouri Envirothon Competition**

Pembroke Hill High School from Kansas City swept the 2016 Missouri Envirothon on Thursday, April 28 in Jefferson City, taking the top spot in the 18-team competition. Team members are Mulan Jiang, Emily Dickey, Pallavi Jonnalagadda, Coleman Gliddon, and Maya Chan. Their advisor is Kathy Ketchum.

Students from around the state gathered at the Lincoln University Carver Farm in Jefferson City for a day of testing that combined the proven concepts of applied education with the excitement of a good competition and the fun of a day in the outdoors.

They competed at five outdoor testing stations that included aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and the 2016 current conservation topic of invasive species. Test stations required the teams to participate in a variety of both hands-on and written natural resource questions. Each team also had to give an oral presentation to a panel of three judges.

"Every year, our competition grows stronger and more challenging, and this year's competitors were definitely ready for that challenge," said Judy Stinson, co-chair of the state event. "I applaud the Pembroke Hill team of all freshmen for their competitive spirit, the dedication

in which they prepared for this competition and their strong commitment to the environment. They are an extraordinary group of young people."

The other nine teams rounding out the top 10 were Licking, Sacred Heart in Sedalia, Smith Cotton in Sedalia, Houston, Parkway North A in St. Louis, McKinley in St. Louis, North Shelby Gold from Shelbyville, Smithville, and Stockton high schools. The winning team will advance on to the National Conservation Federation (NCF) Envirothon at Trent University in Ontario, Canada on July 25 through July 29. The NCF-Envirothon is North America's largest high school natural resource competition with more than 50 states and seven Canadian provinces competing at the national level.

The state event features the top three teams from each of Missouri's seven regional competitions held throughout the year. Contact your local soil and water conservation district office for information and dates about the regional events. Sponsors for this year's event included the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local soil and water conservation districts, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts Employees Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Missouri Association of Environmental Education, and Smithfield Foods.

More information about the Missouri Envirothon is available at [moenvirothon.org](http://moenvirothon.org).



**The Pembroke Hill High School team from Kansas City took first place honors at the 2016 Missouri Envirothon, Mulan Jiang, Emily Dickey, Pallavi Jonnalagadda, Maya Chan and Coleman Gliddon.**





Students from Sedalia's Sacred Heart school competed in the outdoor challenge.



Lafayette students at the aquatics station.



Pembroke Hill students examining some soil samples at the Missouri Envirothon.



Camdenton students study evidence in the soil pit to answer questions on the test.



## Learning About Soil, Water and Pollinators at Missouri's Earth Day Celebration in Jefferson City

More than 1,200 students, teachers, chaperones and others attended the 2016 Earth Day celebration held on Friday, April 22 at the Capitol in Jefferson City. Students participated in an interactive and educational game about the water cycle presented by the Soil and Water Conservation Program. The program also handed out 200 *Living Soil* activity books, which are available online on [mo.gov/1SP1qZ](http://mo.gov/1SP1qZ).

The Missouri Department of Transportation gave away seedlings and offered a fun and educational bean bag toss game. Students learned to “Be Energy Efficient” with the Missouri Public Service Commission and see wonderful aquatic fish and more in the Missouri Department of Conservation’s mobile aquarium.

Many people took home seeds and a recyclable planter from the Missouri Department of Agriculture’s booth and experienced “Pollinator Power” with Runge Nature Center. They also learned about water safety with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Division of Health and Human Services and Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology booth informed visitors about public health. People also learned about urban stormwater and visited the Girl Scout’s Gold Award Pollinator Display at the City of Jefferson’s MU Extension office booth. The U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center provided information about groundwater.



John Johnson (r) assists a student in playing the water cycle game at Earth Day.



Students enjoyed dressing up as bees and butterflies at the Pollinator power activity.



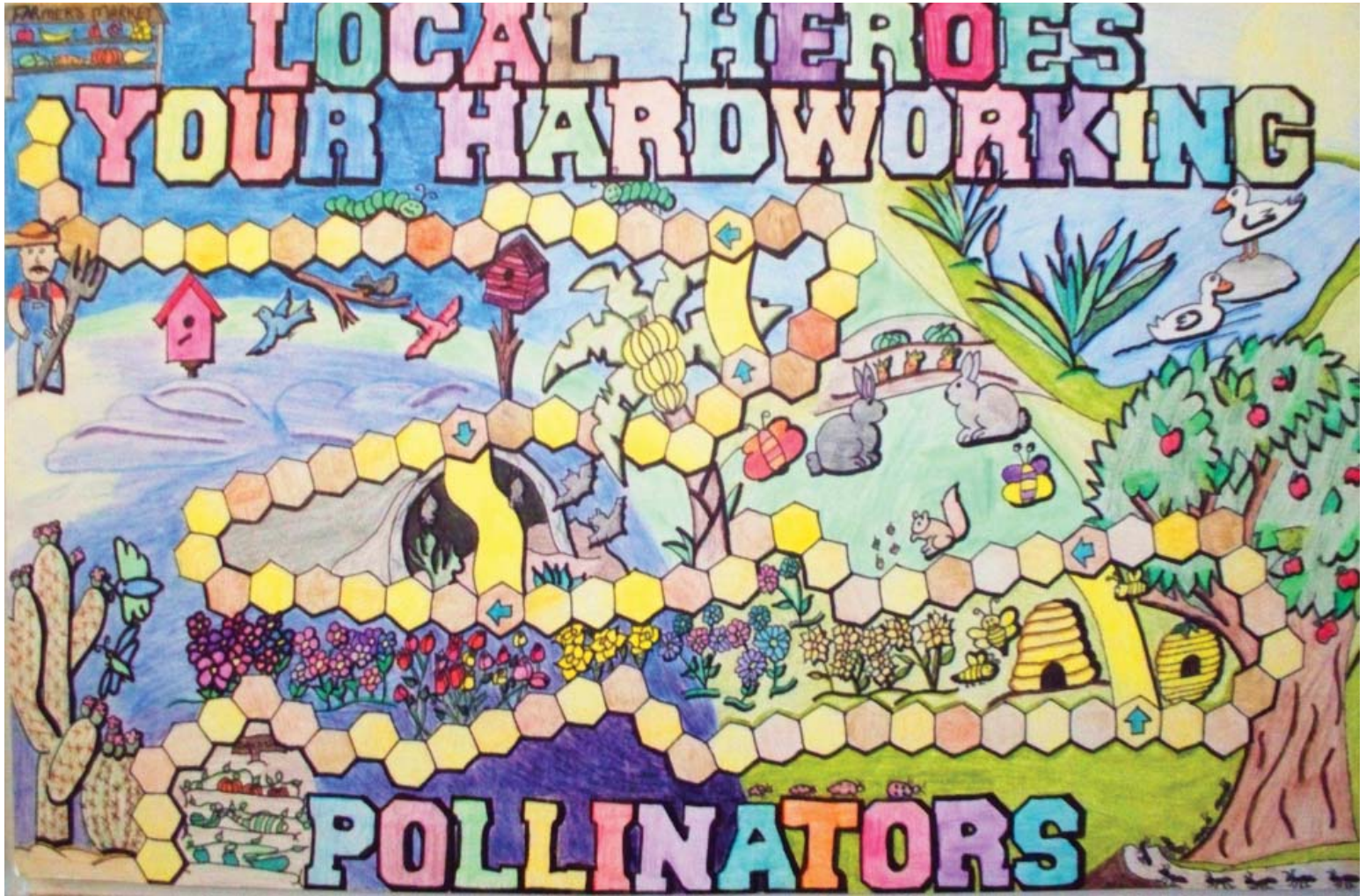
Butterfly hats and cork-boat crafts were fun activities to learn about pollinator and water health at Earth Day.



Students learned about how the water cycle affects soil, animals and more.



**Missouri Has 3rd Place and Honorable Mention  
National Poster Contest Winners**



**3rd Place poster by Savannah Grimes**



**Honorable Mention poster by Mason Forkner**

Congratulations to Savannah Grimes, a 3rd grader from St. Francois County, whose poster won 3rd place in the National Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest. The theme for the poster contest was Local Heroes - Your Hardworking Pollinators. Savannah received a \$100 award. Mason Forkner, a 4th grader from Vernon County, was an honorable mention winner in the nationals. The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides kindergarten through 12th grade students an opportunity to share their thoughts about soil, water and related issues. It also highlights the educational efforts of the local soil and water conservation districts.

**4-H and FFA Youth Awards**

Joseph Michael Circo of Chillicothe, Mo., won the Missouri FFA Environmental Science/Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award at the 88th Missouri FFA Convention.

Circo, a senior at Chillicothe High School, is the son of Joseph Circo and Michelle Anderson. He is a member of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter. His advisors are Rusty Black, Lance Martin, Neal Wolf, Leda Schreiner and Adam Wolf.

Circo's supervised agricultural experience program is comprised of employment at Anderson Salvage recycling scrap metal. His responsibilities include stripping metals, operating a Bobcat, hauling metal to scrap yards and operating track hoes to unload trailers.

As an FFA member, Circo has attended Missouri Farm Bureau Statewide Leadership Day, and has served as both Courtesy Corp and a Delegate at the Missouri State FFA Convention.





**Joseph Circo of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter wins the Missouri FFA Environmental Science/Natural Resource Management Proficiency Award during the 88th Missouri FFA Convention, Columbia, Mo., April 21-22, 2016.**

Outside of FFA, Circo is a member of the Chillicothe High School football and basketball teams, the Grand River Technical School SkillsUSA, New Lake Big Bass Fishing Club, and the Chillicothe High School Hunting and Fishing Club. After graduation, Circo plans to attend Tulsa Welding School and receive his pipe welding certification.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while gaining hands-on career experience. Environmental science/natural resources management is one of 48 proficiency award areas recognized at the state level. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources sponsors this award.

**State Fair Youth In Agriculture Scholarships**

Missouri State Fair Director Mark Wolfe announced that 32 youth, selected from Missouri 4-H and FFA, were awarded scholarships by the Missouri State Fair Foundation Youth in Agriculture (YIA) committee. These students are seeking higher education in agriculture-related fields, and received their scholarships Friday, April 22, during the annual State FFA Convention in Columbia.

“Awarding these scholarships is a tradition we are proud to carry on for Missouri’s next generation of agriculture leaders,” Wolfe said. “We are appreciative of the many gracious agricultural supporters who give back year after year to make

these scholarships possible.” Scholarship applicants were evaluated in a variety of areas including Missouri State Fair participation, grade point average, community involvement and leadership roles. Since 1992, the YIA committee has awarded 538 scholarships totaling \$505,000.

Joel Martin, of Bucklin, received the \$5,000 platinum scholarship offered by YIA supporters. Samuel Fahrmeier, of Wellington, received the \$2,500 supreme scholarship, sponsored by Sydenstricker John Deere of Missouri/Sydenstricker Angus Genetics. The youth chosen to receive \$1,500 scholarships, sponsored by the Missouri State Fair Foundation and YIA supporters are:

- Natalie Nicole Allen, of Marceline
- Natalie Ayers, of Green City
- Zachary Ayers, of Green City
- Nicholas Banze, of Warrenton
- Neal Barnett, of Wellington
- Emma Clark, of Milan
- Meredith Jo Clevenger, of Hamilton
- Denton “Cole” Diggins, of Moundville
- Dalton Michael Edwards, of Higginsville
- Holly Enowski, of Russellville
- Abigail Gass, of Marshall
- Hanna Gregory, of Houstonia
- Derrek Hardy, of Browning
- Taylor Harrington, of Shelbyville
- Cassidy Jones, of Auxvasse
- Abigail Kirk, of Pleasant Hill
- Austin Knipmeyer, of Sweet Springs
- Blayre Ashton Messner, of Albany
- Renee Nelson, of Vandalia
- Ethan Riley, of Westboro
- Clayton Robinson, of Center
- William Robinson, of Wellsville
- Kaitlyn Ruoff, of Savannah
- Jordan Sayre, of Marceline
- Delaney Schmidt, of Defiance
- Trevor Simmons, of St. Joseph
- Corey Lane Smothers, of Elmer
- Colton Spencer, of Aurora
- Cooper Dale Sutter, of Taylor
- Ty Edward Whittaker, of Miller

**Cost-Share and District Grant Funding Increased**

On Friday May 6, Gov. Nixon signed House Bill 6 which appropriates funding for the expenses, grants, refunds and distributions of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Department of Conservation.

An increase of \$3 million for district grants was included in the budget. Also, there is an increased appropriation for cost-share from the current amount of \$31 million to \$40 million for fiscal year 2017, which begins July 1, 2016. Read more at [on.mo.gov/1TSbk9Y](http://on.mo.gov/1TSbk9Y).

Also, on April 29, Gov. Nixon signed the supplemental budget, which provides an additional \$4 million appropriation authority for cost-share funding for this fiscal year. Read more at [on.mo.gov/1qnwuFr](http://on.mo.gov/1qnwuFr).

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